Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for enabling a guest user who is not a registered user of

an instant messaging system to communicate by instant messaging with a registered user of the

instant messaging system, the method comprising:

> receiving an initial indication that the guest user desires to communicate with a selected
>
> > registered user **of the instant messaging system** by instant messaging, wherein
> >
> > the initial indication specifically identifies the selected registered user with whom
> >
> > the guest user desires to communicate;
>
> **wherein the instant messaging system is associated with at least one other**
>
> > **registration-based service;**
>
> **wherein the guest user is registered with the at least one other registration-based**
>
> > **instant messaging system and wherein the guest user signs in using a user**
> >
> > **name to access the at least one other registration-based instant messaging**
> >
> > **system;**
>
> **displaying the user name associated with the guest user with respect to the other**
>
> > **service to identify the guest user to the selected registered user;**
>
> sending to a client computer system associated with the guest user browser-executable
>
> > computer code comprising computer instructions for providing at least limited
> >
> > instant messaging functionality to the guest user at the client computer system,
> >
> > without requiring the guest user to download and install client side instant
> >
> > messaging application software and without requiring the guest user to register as
> >
> > a user of the instant messaging system; and

facilitating an instant messaging session between the guest user and the selected

registered user.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein facilitating the instant messaging

session comprises delivering instant messages from the guest user to the selected registered user.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an entry

point configured to receive the initial indication from the guest user that the guest user desires to

communicate with the selected registered user by instant messaging.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the entry point is provided in an

electronic mail message sent by the selected registered user to the guest user.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the entry point is provided in a

web page associated with the selected registered user.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the entry point is provided in an

electronic document associated with the selected registered user.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the entry point is provided by computer code

comprising code written in the HyperText Markup Language (HTML).

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an indication

from the selected registered user that the selected registered user would like to incorporate into

an electronic mail message to the guest user an entry point configured to receive an indication

from the guest user that the guest user desires to communicate with the selected registered user

by instant messaging.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an indication

from the selected registered user ~~that the inviting user would like~~ to incorporate into a web page

associated with the selected registered user an entry point configured to receive an indication

from the guest user that the guest user desires to communicate with the ~~inviting~~ **selected**

registered user by instant messaging.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer code comprises a

browser-executable instant messaging client**.**

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the browser-executable instant messaging

client comprises computer instructions in the Dynamic HyperText Markup Language (DHTML).

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the browser-executable instant messaging

client comprises computer instructions in JavaScript.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the browser-executable instant messaging

client comprises computer instructions in ActiveX.

14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, **wherein displaying the user name**

associated with the guest user with respect to the other service to identify the guest user to

the selected registered user further comprises**es**[ing] **defining the user name associated with**

the guest user as assigning a temporary user identification **in the instant messaging system** to

the guest user.

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the temporary user identification

is at least temporarily deactivated upon termination of the instant messaging session between the

guest user and the selected registered user.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the temporary user identification

is valid only for instant messaging with the selected registered user.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Currently amended) The method of claim **1**[20], wherein cookie information is used to

determine if the guest user is signed in as a user of the **at least one** other **registration-based**

service.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer code is configured to display an

instant messaging window to the guest user.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the instant messaging window

comprises an area for displaying messages sent by either the guest user or the selected registered

user.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the instant messaging window

comprises an area for entering the text of a message to be sent and displayed to the selected

registered user essentially in real time.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising advising the selected

registered user that the guest user is not a registered user.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected registered user is

associated with a registered user client computer system on which client side instant messaging

application software associated with the instant messaging system is installed and the method

further comprises disabling, at least with respect to the guest user, at least one feature of the

client side instant messaging application software installed on said registered user client

computer system.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein disabling, at least with respect to

the guest user, at least one feature of the client side instant messaging application software on

said registered user client computer system includes a disabling feature that would otherwise

have allowed the selected registered user to add the temporary user identification assigned to the

guest user to a list of users whose online presence is monitored by the client side instant

messaging application software installed on said registered user client computer system.

28.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the ~~disable~~ **at least one** feature is

one that the computer code sent to the guest user's client computer system does not support.

29.   (Currently amended) A method for enabling an invited user who may not be a registered

user of an instant messaging system**, said instant messaging system including** ~~having~~ client

side instant message application software ~~associated with it,~~ to communicate by instant

messaging with an inviting user who is a registered user of the system, the method comprising:

> **sending an invitation to the invited user that indicates that the inviting user desires**
>
> > **to communicate with the invited user;**
>
> **wherein said invitation includes an entry point configured to receive an initial**
>
> > **indication from the invited user that the invited user desires to communicate**
> >
> > **with the selected registered user by instant messaging.;**

activating said entry point by the invited user, wherein activiating said entry point

causes the initial indication that the invited user desires to communicate with

the inviting user by instant messaging to be sent;

receiving [an] **the** initial indication that the invited user desires to communicate with the

inviting user by instant messaging, wherein the initial indication specifically

identifies the inviting user with whom the guest user desires to communicate;

sending to a client computer system associated with the invited user browser-executable

computer code comprising computer instructions for:

determining whether the client side instant messaging application software

associated with the instant messaging system is installed in the client

computer system; and

in the event it is determined that the client side instant messaging application

software associated with the instant messaging system is not installed in

the client computer system, providing at least limited instant messaging

functionality to the invited user at the client computer system, without

requiring the invited user to download and install the client side instant

messaging application software and without requiring the invited user to

register as a user of the instant messaging system; and

facilitating an instant messaging session between the invited user and the inviting user.

30.   (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

in the event it is determined that the client side instant messaging application software

associated with the instant messaging system is installed in the client computer

system, activating and using the installed client side instant messaging application

software to enable the invited user to communicate with the inviting user by

instant messaging.

31.   (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said computer instructions for determining

whether the client side instant messaging application software associated with the instant

messaging system is installed in the client computer system comprises computer code written in

the JavaScript programming language.

32.   (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said computer instructions for determining

whether the client side instant messaging application software associated with the instant

messaging system is installed in the client computer system comprises computer code written in

the VBScript programming language.

33.   (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said computer instructions for determining

whether the client side instant messaging application software associated with the instant

messaging system is installed in the client computer system comprises computer code written in

the ActiveX programming language.

34.   (Currently amended) A system for enabling a guest user who is not a registered user of an

instant messaging system to communicate by instant messaging with a registered user of the

system, comprising:

        a web server configured to:

receive an initial indication that the guest user desires to communicate with a

selected registered user **of the instant messaging system** by instant

messaging, wherein the initial indication specifically identifies the selected

registered user with whom the guest user desires to communicate;

wherein the instant messaging system is associated with at least one other

registration-based service;

wherein the guest user is registered with the at least one other registration-

based instant messaging system and wherein the guest user signs in

using a user name to access the at least one other registration-based

instant messaging system;

display the user name associated with the guest user with respect to the other

service to identify the guest user to the selected registered user; and

send to a client computer system associated with the guest user browser-

executable computer code comprising computer instructions for providing

at least limited instant messaging functionality to the guest user at the

client computer system, without requiring the guest user to download and

install client side instant messaging application software and without

requiring the guest user to register as a user of the instant messaging

system; and

an instant messaging server configured to facilitate an instant messaging session between

the guest user and the selected registered user.

35.   (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein said web server comprises a plurality of

servers.

36.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein said instant messaging server

comprises a[s] plurality of servers.

37.   (Currently amended) A computer program product embodied on a computer readable

storage medium for enabling a guest user who is not a registered user of an instant messaging

system to communicate by instant messaging with a registered user of the system, the computer

program product comprising computer instructions for:

receiving an initial indication that the guest user desires to communicate with a selected

registered user **of the instant messaging system** by instant messaging, wherein

the initial indication specifically identifies the selected registered user with whom

the guest user desires to communicate;

wherein the instant messaging system is associated with at least one other

registration-based service;

wherein the guest user is registered with the at least one other registration-based

instant messaging system and wherein the guest user signs in using a user

name to access the at least one other registration-based instant messaging

system;

displaying the user name associated with the guest user with respect to the other

service to identify the guest user to the selected registered user;

sending to a client computer system associated with the guest user browser-executable

computer code comprising computer instructions for providing at least limited

instant messaging functionality to the guest user at the client computer system,

without requiring the guest user to download and install client side instant

messaging application software and without requiring the guest user to register as

a user of the instant messaging system; and

facilitating an instant messaging session between the guest user and the selected

registered user.

38. (New) A method for enabling a guest user who is not a registered user of an instant

messaging system to communicate by instant messaging with a registered user of the system, the

method comprising:

receiving an initial indication that the guest user desires to communicate with a selected

registered user by instant messaging, wherein the initial indication specifically

identifies the selected registered user with whom the guest user desires to

communicate;

wherein the selected registered user is associated with a registered user client computer

system on which client side instant messaging application software associated

with the instant messaging system is installed;

sending to a client computer system associated with the guest user browser-executable

computer code comprising computer instructions for providing limited instant

messaging functionality to the guest user at the client computer system, without

requiring the guest user to download and install client side instant messaging

application software and without requiring the guest user to register as a user of

the instant messaging system;

wherein said limited instant messaging functionality includes disabling, at least with

respect to the guest user, at least one feature of the client side instant messaging

application software installed on said registered user client computer system

wherein disabling, at least with respect to the guest user, at least one feature of the client

side instant messaging application software on said registered user client

computer system includes disabling at least one feature that would otherwise have

allowed the selected registered user to add the temporary user identification

assigned to the guest user to a list of users whose online presence is monitored by

the client side instant messaging application software installed on said registered

user client computer system.; and

facilitating an instant messaging session between the guest user and the selected

registered user.

39.   (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the disable feature is one that the computer code

sent to the guest user's client computer system does not support.